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philosophical ;— first, a concise historical sketch, and then the personal adventures, discoveries, and reflections of the author. The background is finished before the colors are laid on.

The observations of this writer in Corsica are wonderfully various, reminding one constantly of the many-sided Goethe. Nothing seems to escape him. Every important town of the island, on the coast or in the hills, — every region, from the tropical heats of the southern plains to the eternal snows of the central mountains, from the fertile ridges of Cape Corso to the chalk cliffs of Bonifacio, — the haunts of noted robbers, and the homes of famous men, — the tower of Seneca, the retreat of Pascal Paoli, the birthplace of Napoleon, — the scenes of tragic catastrophes, and the quiet village life, — the geology, botany, industry, commerce, traditional customs, patriotism, and poetry, — all come into the undulating play of the author's emotions and thoughts, while over all is thrown the ever-present and terrible shadow of the "Vendetta," which no change of time can banish from the Corsican land. Charming digressions beguile us along the way, and surround, before we know it, this rough and neglected island with the richest classic and romantic associations. At the beginning of the book, we marvel that so dull a country should have been chosen for a summer tour ; at the end, we have vowed that no visit of ours to Europe shall leave out this most interesting excursion. Pascal Paoli has become one of our heroes, and we shall join Corsica henceforward to the thought of his stern and noble virtue, much more than to the name of that great conqueror who so ungratefully forgot the humble home of his childhood.

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9. — *The Mayflower, and Miscellaneous Writings.* By HARRIET BEECHER STOWE. Boston : Phillips, Sampson, & Co. 1855. 12mo. pp. 471.

A LARGE amount of high intellectual ability must needs go almost unrecognized, or pass into speedy oblivion, because employed in contributions to periodical literature, which is impersonal to such a degree as by no means to confer the character it possesses. Though we recollected many of the pieces in this book, and they had made us think the better of the magazines in which they originally appeared, they yet had not separately produced upon us the impression which together they now make with regard to their writer. As we read them in their collective form, we perceive that her world-famous tale was not the

miraculous outblooming of a genius that had previously given no sign, but that in the "Miscellaneous Writings" of earlier years there had been the distinct presage of high and enduring reputation. There are among them specimens of character-painting and of dialogue, of the ludicrous and the pathetic, which are hardly surpassed in their kind by corresponding passages in "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

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10. — *The History of Massachusetts. The Colonial Period.* By JOHN STETSON BARRY. Boston: Phillips, Sampson, & Co. 1855. 16mo. pp. 516.

THIS is but the first of a series of volumes in preparation by the author. It embraces the history of Massachusetts from its discovery by European voyagers to the union of the territories of Massachusetts (the Bay Colony), Plymouth, and Maine under the "Province charter" in 1692. It lacks no characteristic needed to win for the finished work a place among the standard histories that do honor to our country and our age. As to the fundamental merit of accuracy, the best authorities have been uniformly consulted and carefully collated; conflicting testimonies have been weighed with judicial impartiality; and, on points that must remain doubtful, the entire sum of extant evidence is given. In the next essential of personal interest in his subject, the author manifests an enthusiasm, fervent, but not blinding. He reveres, without worshipping, our Puritan ancestors. He beholds in them men of lofty courage, firm principle, and faith worthy of the primitive ages, but does not see in them "gods in the likeness of men." He admires them enough to make the most of their kingly and priestly elements of character, but not enough to deny their frailties, or to ascribe to them preternatural insight and foresight. As a specimen of the discriminating judgment which marks the entire volume, we quote the following paragraph with reference to the provisional constitution adopted on board the Mayflower.

"While, on the one hand, much eloquence has been expended in expatiating on this compact, as if in the cabin of the Mayflower had consciously, and for the first time, been discovered, in an age of Cimmerian darkness, the true principles of republicanism and equality, — on the other hand, it has been asserted that the Pilgrims were 'actuated by the most daring ambition,' and that, even at this early period, they designed to erect a government absolutely independent of the mother country. But the truth seems to be, that, although the form of government adopted by the emigrants was republican in its character,